

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 503

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service and the modern National Park System.

WHEREAS, established by Congress in 1872, Yellowstone National Park was the first national park in the United States, and it is also widely held to be the first national park in the world; and

WHEREAS, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park was the first battlefield set aside by the federal government in 1890 and was managed by the War Department; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service Organic Act was signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson on August 25, 1916; and

WHEREAS, this Act remains the preeminent law guiding the management of parks and articulating the core mission of the National Park Service: to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations; and

WHEREAS, for 100 years, the National Park Service has administered the great national parks and monuments in the United States as a unified National Park System; and

WHEREAS, from 1916 to the present, the National Park System has grown from thirty-seven park units with 6,000,000 acres of land in the western United States to more than 395 units with 84,000,000 acres of land in nearly every state and territory; and

WHEREAS, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016 is an occasion to celebrate a century of American vision and achievement in identifying and preserving the

special places in the United States for the benefit of all and the culmination of 100 years of accomplishments by the employees, partners, and volunteers of the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, 2016 also marks the beginning of the second century of service of the dedicated employees, partners, and volunteers of the National Park Service to the people of the United States as environmental leaders and vigilant stewards of the treasured places and stories of the United States; and

WHEREAS, one of eleven National Park units in the State of Tennessee, Stones River National Military Park was created by law in 1927 and was initially managed by the War Department; and

WHEREAS, in 1933, the military parks, including Stones River National Military Park, were transferred to the National Park Service through an executive order issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt; and

WHEREAS, since renamed, Stones River National Battlefield is dedicated to the history of a major Civil War battle that took place on the outskirts of Murfreesboro in Rutherford County, Tennessee, from December 31, 1862, to January 2, 1863; and

WHEREAS, Stones River National Battlefield plays an integral part in telling the story of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, and more than 300,000 people visit the park each year; and

WHEREAS, national parks are the touchstones of our shared history and culture, conveying majestic landscapes that embody the American spirit, and the Centennial of the National Park Service should be celebrated by this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service and the modern unified National Park System and encourage all Tennesseans to visit one of our eleven national parks or one of the nearly 400 national parks in other states to experience not only the most splendid examples of America's unsurpassed natural and scenic heritage, but

also the special places, artifacts, and stories of our nation's birth, our struggles and triumphs as a people, and the shared values that unite us.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.